Paper #1

Amelia Hill

“Sweat” and “A Jury of Her Peers”

Now in this paper I will write critical essay in which I will compare and contrast the short stories, “Sweat” and A Jury of Her Peers.” Both of these story give a since of plot, point of view, character, setting, tone and style, theme, and symbol which I will discuss thought out this paper. As both stories start there are internal conflicts that are affecting everyone involved. These stories are very different in so many ways but are parallel as will.

To being with, “A Jury of Her Peer,” cold north wind which make you think the setting is in the winter time gives you a feeling of a cold hearted story that is about to be told. The theme is murder. There is omniscient objective by the author followed though out because he follows the internal conflicts of the two women telling of only what they see and find. The plot of, “A Jury of Her Peer,” being with the introduction of a murder that has happen at an old cold house that most of the people knew nothing about. The scene is set by a man name Harry tells a story of a man he had found the day before murdered in he own house while he wife is found downstairs in the kitchen rolling away in a chair. The telling of the story is the rising action and when the two women find the die bird in Mrs. Wright’s quilting basket this is the climax. Up to this point the was no evidence to way Mr. Wright was killed but at the time when Mrs. Hale founds the bird there is a huge turn in the movement of the story. Will Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters tell the sheriff and the attorney that they may have found some evidence that may explain the reason for the crime that was committed the day before? The ladies have chance to tell and give their thoughts but choice to not too. Why? I think deep down that they know Mrs. Wright before she had got married and knew her as a young girl. They remember how she was when she would sing in the chorus at church. She was happy. They must have felt sorry for Mrs. Wright and wanted to be on her side in this. Now had these women also be in relationship that they could relate to the pain of Mrs. Wright. Could you image living in this cold dark house with no friends, no kids, no joy and no happiness and then once you get a little of happiness, that she had found in this bird, and to have a man that came into your life a taken all of your happiness away. I believe Mr. Wright broke the bird’s neck and Mrs. Wright killed him in returned. Mrs. Wright is the protagonist of the story although she is not driven by good will. She is the main force of the story and keeps every character in the story second guessing there selves. Now Mr. Wright, although he is die, is the antagonist. He must have been against Mrs. Wright in some way before the murder. He leaves the sheriff and the attorney and the two women with so many unanswered questions. The two women feel sorry for Mrs. Wright and cover up the fact that they have found the evidence that could make or break the case against Mrs. Wright. Are they feminism? I would say yes, because, they could have sold her up the river but they did not. They were not ever friend with Mrs. Wright but they knew they had to save her for some reason and at any cost. Now the coldest of the house and the weather is nothing compare to the coldest that has enter into the hearts of the two women. Should they have told that Mr. Wright may have been killed out of spike? Who know? For all you know Mrs. Wright could have lose her mind and killed the bird and Mr. Wright. There are so many things to go off of. Mr. Wright is say to be to himself and did not bother anyone. So why would he kill the bird? The two women only were going off what they felt and knew of Mrs. Wright before she had married Mr. Wright. No way had you put it. Mrs. Wright could have killed her husband in cold blood. The two ladies took it upon themselves to judge her without question or trail and come up with their own judgment. Mrs. Wright’s, jury of her peers, were two women who were just alone for the ride on a cold morning to keep each other company.

Now, the story “Sweat,” which should be called poetic justice, gives you the insight of a mean men and his wife who just has put up with too much. From the dialogue one can tell that this story took place when blacks were not getting an education. The setting is spring in Florida. The theme is old black community settled sometime time in the late 1800s. Delia, the wife, is the bread winner of this home. She washes the cloths of some of the white people in town every week. She seems to be in such a routine in her life. She is a strong mind woman who is about to hit her breaking point with her husband. He enters the story as a complete “ass” by scaring his wife by tossing something at her to make her think that it is a snake. Delia is very scared of snake and he knows that and gets so much joy out of fear and arise in her. Syke, Delia’s husband, is a cold hearted and mean as they come. He does not work and give most of him time and energy to another woman. He tells his wife she should not be doing any work on the Sabbath (Sunday) but he is not offering any type of financial support to the home. He becomes very angry and acts as if he is going to hit Delia but she stands up for herself and he leave the house a wound man in spirit because up to this point he must have had all the control in the marriage to do and say what he wanted to. He did not like to fact that Delia was standing up for herself. Picking up the iron skillet from the stove let him know that she was not afraid of him anymore and that Syke was losing his control he had over Delia. The feelings of hate for Syke went pass he wife some of the people in the area hated just as much. They felt sorry for Delia because they knew she deserved better. Syke did not hide the fact that he was running around with another woman for month. He did not care if he wife saw them together. He did whatever he to hurt Delia. He would put her down about her weight and telling her that he wanted a woman with more meat on her and Delia was a thin woman who did not have time to stay at home and do nothing. The home she had needed to be taken care of and she knew if she did not take care of it, Syke was not going to do it. Now Delia is the protagonist and Syke is the antagonist. It seems to be a fight against good and evil thought out the story. The way Delia is in the story is only because of Syke attitude toward her; this is what drives the story and Delia. Syke’s ego is in the dumps when Delia stands up for herself. He cannot take this and wants to get back at her and make her suffer. Delia does not think much and tries to get only with Syke. Months have gone pass until Delia comes home one day and finds Syke with a box and inside of the box is a rattle snake. Syke totally did this out of hate for Delia and she knows it. He gets so much joy out of fear of this snake and leaves the snake in the house so she cannot even feel safe in her own home. The night she comes home the snake is not in his box and loses in the house; this event seems Delia out of her own home and to sleep outside in hay. After awhile her husband, Syke, comes home not knowing that the snake has gotten out of the box, enters the house of aware of what is about to walk in to. You would think at the minute she heard Syke she would get up to warn him but he does not. This is where there is a change in the theme of the story. She did not warn him because she wants to have a taste of him own medicine. The snake attacks and the Delia do not run to his cry of help. She leaves him wounded and dying in pain. This is poetic justice for her. She had a chance to save herself or Syke and she chose herself. Now she is free from him.

Now in both of these stories are driven by women and their choice to put up the men in their lives. Mrs. Wright and Delia seem to need freedom from the men in their lives and if this is at the cost of their husband lives then so are it. Divorce must have not been a choice that they could take, so they took the next best thing to get their freedom.